

A GROUND SWELL IN OLD VIRGINIA

(Continued from First Page.)

have been successful and during the whole year only one merchant made any assignment, and his creditors stood him up again. When all the railroads of the country were cutting down expenses during the summer, work was slack in his shops of the Norfolk & Western, but during the past two months the pay rolls have been the largest in the history of the shops. That company alone has work on hand here that will cost about \$150,000. The new passenger spot which was started three months ago, will cost \$110,000, and will be the handsome depot in the state. They also expect a large sum, building an arcade in an approach to the depot reconstruction of the tracks and the. During the year a new roundhouse was built in the west end, and has commenced on another machine shop to cost \$25,000. During the year the line was completed. Next year an addition will be built to the building.

The Virginia Bridge and Iron Company, the enterprise next in importance, erected a large addition to the building. Lately the company purchased and their plan of the large bridge company at Burlington, N. C., which will double their capacity. This company employs double the force of men it a year ago. It not only erects bridges all over the South, but has contracts for ten bridges for the United States government in Oklahoma. One of its late contracts is for a bridge over the Dan, at Danville. The latest enterprise is the rolling mill of the American Iron Company in the west end. This company, by the way, has been successful in its process, experts to make iron equal to steel. The plant will start up in a few days.

The Virginia Brewery has doubled its capacity by the erection of a new brew house at a cost of \$25,000, and has in two rival ice plants.

The Virginia Carriage factory has enlarged its plant; the cotton mill is in operation after a long shut down, and other enterprises have increased their capacity.

One of the most important enterprises of that of the new electric company, which is building a dam across Roanoke river, about four miles below the city. Mr. F. M. Camp, a Florida millionaire, is at the head of the enterprise, and proposes to furnish power and lights at very low prices.

The survey of the Tidewater railroad has been completed in this section, and bankers are hopeful that work will begin on the road during the coming year.

The city of Roanoke is spending \$23,000 on what is known as the Campbell avenue drain. During the early days Roanoke when there was doubt about growth of the city, the drain was eroded with wood, which has rotted. It is now being enlarged and brick-lined. The city has been appropriating \$100,000 for sewers during the coming year. It has erected an addition to the hall, at a cost of \$4,000, and it is very much that a new jail will be built during the year 1905.

There is a strong sentiment in the city for the issue of leasing bonds for large amount for permanent improvement. The building operations surpass any previous year. Twelve large stores have been built at a cost of \$150,000, and nearly 500 smaller ones ranging in prices from \$300 to \$8,000. No year has there been as many handsome and expensive residences erected, and more are planned for the coming year. Nearly all the store-houses erected on Campbell Avenue, which is the principal business street of the city, have also been many residences erected in the Crystal Spring neighborhood, across the river. One of the handsomest and most expensive is that of Mr. J. C. Casell.

Mr. J. S. Perryman of Roanoke's most prominent capitalists has already erected a half dozen store-houses, plans to spend a large sum of money on North Avenue when the new depot is completed, and it is expected other property will be improved during the year. The second year of the worst in the city. A company has been organized to erect a large apartment house, covering a block, and it is probable that Watt, Rettew & Clay will build a six-story store-house on the lot Campbell Avenue, for which they paid \$100,000.

no time in its history have Roanoke had greater faith in the future of the city, and are planning to do great things during 1905.

WARRENTON.

rise and Pleasure He Creates Responsible for Business.

(Special to The Times-Dispatch.) WARRENTON, VA., Dec. 31.—Warrenton is an old and progressive business enterprise has, strange to say, materially strengthened by the introduction during recent years of a comparative pleasure-loving element in its population. Notwithstanding the fact that the community has attracted and shed the support of numerous pleasure-seekers, who, while in no sense of word are connected with business here, yet have served to create an interest in the extent of increasing demand and adding to competition a stronger stimulus than it here received.

Business men with quick intuition and keen eyes are eagerly anxious to do what which before were never made them. Since forsaking old rules, worn by time and custom, they have made in their various branches which demand be most gratifying. The demand for building lots is with-recent in the history of the town, some residences crown the coming heights of the outskirts, while

There Never Was Such an Auspicious Time

to enter the business of life assurance as now. It was never so prosperous, never so popular, never so profitable as now. The business of life insurance is being established in various universities, many colleges here are entering the business immediately after graduation. The young men are securing assurance in large amounts; and life insurance is regarded as a necessity by all.

The man or woman who takes advantage of this era of prosperity and starts in the business of life insurance now, is going to receive pecuniary returns commensurate with the efforts put forth.

This will be especially the case if working under a new plan, known as the Equitable, which not only provides immediate returns, but builds up an income for future years.

Man or woman of energy and character who wish to increase their incomes, and who are willing to take up life insurance, can do so by joining the Equitable life work, and are invited to apply or write to

H. SWINEFORD & SON,
General Agents,
1110 E. Main Street, Richmond, Va.
Correspondence solicited and treated in confidence.

new institutions are now and again making their appearance.

Easy access to Washington, Richmond and other cities, without actually being on the main line of the railroad is a feature which transients generally appreciate. The water supply of Warrenton is pure, from the mountain waters of the Blue Ridge, and for purity has yet to be surpassed. A large electric plant has been successfully lighting the town. Manufactured ice is consumed in great quantities and is pleasing to the many who use it.

An electric lighting mill, the machinery of which may be heard far into the night is doing an active business.

Though last to be mentioned, the horse show is a source of profit which should not be overlooked. It is here the animal may be found in his highest state of perfection, and it is here his highest price is realized. Improvement in the order of the stock is being made, and residents returning are the first to remark upon it.

The ensuing year will be attended by results equally as pleasant to witness as those of the year just past.

MONTEREY.

No Marked Development, But General Signs of Prosperity.

(Special to The Times-Dispatch.) MONTEREY, VA., Dec. 31.—In the little county of Highland, perched high above the slaters, yet nestled among the mountains, a review of the year will perhaps show no startling figures, but a thoughtful retrospect, a glance at the balance sheet, is sufficient to tell of a year of prosperity, peace and plenty.

With just pride, her law-abiding, peace-loving citizens, who are now engaged in a five thousand dollar jail, and a criminal docket without entries.

The merchants of the county have had a good year. The volume of the trade which had been lost by the changed and changing conditions west of the Alleghenies, is now being made up.

The Highland County Bank, the only institution of its kind in the county, a branch of the Farmers' and Merchants' Bank of the United States, was recently established on a prosperous footing.

In point of building and public improvement, the year has been very fruitful, yet the village of McDowell points with pride to a handsome new passenger, the future of which is a source of pride to the people of that district.

The Hotel Monterey, erected by Euter Bros., contractors of Shenandoah, Va., for Mr. S. W. Crummett, is one of the most commodious, handsome hostleries in the mountain region, and its purpose is to attract and accommodate summer guests, and its success is assured.

Twenty thousand dollars of the county's debt have been refunded, the rate of taxation slightly reduced, and the new commissioner, Mr. J. A. Whitelaw, reports that the county is now in a better financial position than it has been for many years.

WEST POINT.

Took Lesson From the Fire and Is Building for the Future.

(Special to The Times-Dispatch.) WEST POINT, VA., Dec. 31.—The year 1904 has been a year of great blessing in West Point. No time was lost after the fire of 1903 to replace old buildings with substantial brick structures. This renewed confidence in the town, and improvements went right on, and are still going on. The first thing was to establish a system of water-works and fire protection. Sixteen thousand dollars was expended for this enterprise. A great many people have water through their houses, and fire stands no chance at all.

The Vander Prieke Company, a great deal of credit for their promptness and efficiency. The merchants have done a fine business. Manager Topping, of the J. L. Mumford Banking Company, says the banking business has increased fifty per cent.

The oyster dealers have never done a better business. Captain W. J. Marshall added crab packing to his plant last summer and will make still further additions during the coming spring.

At West Point, as has been recently organized, and the outlook for that is bright.

At present there are only dim, flickering oil lamps on some corners, which disfigure the town very much. The report is that West Point is to be lighted with acetylene gas some time.

Beach Park is looking forward to a big season. A force of hands has been at work on the Terminal Hotel all fall and winter.

The Town of Columbia.

(Special to The Times-Dispatch.) COLUMBIA, VA., Dec. 31.—The business outlook of Columbia is unusually good. Large crops were made throughout the year.

There is a most prosperous national bank as well as a private one in town. The building of the Rappahannock, Potomac and Fredericksburg railroad is now almost an assured fact, which will tend to the completion of Culpeper Courthouse within twelve months.

About five miles from town, and near Flint Hill, in this county, there is said to be abundant indications of copper, and several parties have sold options on their mineral rights.

Mr. J. R. Smith, of Sperryville, owns a fine farm near this town on which he has a very fine herd of Short Horn cattle, some of which have taken the first prizes at the Hagerstown fair.

There is a fine tract of land near this town, which is attractive to purchasers. The railroad has been built, there being a quantity of mountain land in the original growth, except that most of the tan bark or chestnut oak has been cut. The bank having been hauled to the tannery of C. C. Smart, Sons, known as the "Hagerstown Tannery," about six miles from this place.

Some of the citizens of this town operate, and with a few other citizens of the county, own a woolen factory at Laurel Mills, about six miles from this place, and here during the past year, the factory has been in demand that the factory is run at its greatest capacity, and then is unable to supply the demand for the goods.

WARM SPRINGS.

Great Lumber Business Is Being Carried On.

WARM SPRINGS, VA., Dec. 31.—The year 1904, marks one of prosperity and much good for the people of Bath county. The general financial independence of the private citizens is evidence enough that the people as a whole have prospered.

The principle new business is lumber. In every little valley of Bath county nearly is to be heard the sound of the saw. There are six stores in the town, and there has been a vast quantity of railroad timber and all grades of lumber shipped.

A large roller mill has been erected here during the past year, by the Chesapeake and Potomac Telephone Company, and here during the past year, the factory has been in demand that the factory is run at its greatest capacity, and then is unable to supply the demand for the goods.

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